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Fabrics Worth Noting: Deep-Pile Fabrics

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fabrics worth noting

Deep-Pile Fabrics

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Deep-Pile Fabrics

During recent fall seasons we've seen deep-pile fabrics used in coats, jackets, collars, cuffs, and accessories. They've also been used as liners in carcoats, jackets, and all-weather coats. Some are furlike, with mink markings and simulated guard hairs. Man-made fibers also can imitate seal, fox, beaver, or leopard. Other deep-pile fabrics are frankly fake, and appear in colors never worn by any animal.

While deep-pile fabrics have been on the ready-to-wear market several seasons, they are now available by the yard. (See "Construction Techniques.")

WHAT ARE DEEP-PILE FABRICS?

Furlike fabric can be made by combining an acrylic fiber such as Creslan or Orlon with a heat-sensitive modacrylic fiber such as Verel or Dynel. The heat-sensitive fiber shrinks when the fabric is passed through a heating chamber and appears as a dense undercoat; the longer top fibers simulate long, silky guard hairs.

CLUES TO THE CONSUMER

- ☐ Check garment label to see if fabric has been treated to prevent shrinkage. A knit-back fabric may shrink excessively if it has not been allowed to "relax" after strains in manufacturing.
- ☐ Higher qualities will have a denser and closer pile than those made to sell at a lower price.
- ☐ Deep-pile fabrics offer warmth without weight. If a deep-pile fabric is used as a liner in a coat, the outer fabric must be tightly woven to make it wind resistant; for example, a closely woven poplin.
- ☐ Note the care instructions on deep-pile fabrics and garments to see if they are washable. Make a record of the measurements of a garment before you wash it. Treat as a

fine fabric, using warm water and the soap or detergent most suitable for your water supply. To avoid "clumping" the pile, handle as little as possible. Use low speed and a short cycle in machine washing and spinning. Line drying is preferable to machine drying. If the garment is large, and the weight of the water would stretch it, place it on a terry towel and pat gently to remove as much moisture as possible. Then stretch gently to original measurements. Hang garment on shaped rust-proof hanger and occasionally shake gently. Fabric will probably look shaggy and matted when dry. Brush or comb gently to restore fluff to the pile.

- ☐ Allow extra space in closet to prevent crushing of pile. Use a well-shaped coat hanger instead of a thin wire one.
- ☐ Don't steam or press. The heat-sensitive fibers that often are used in deep pile will shrink and mat and cannot be restored.

Construction Techniques SELECTING AND PREPARING FABRIC

Deep-pile fabrics are over 50 inches wide and start at about \$4.95 a yard. They are suitable for casual coats, jackets, and accessories. Check label for information on shrinkage. Many deep-pile fabrics have a knit-back construction and may shrink excessively. If fabric is washable, test a small piece for shrinkage. If it shrinks, pre-shrink the fabric by machine or hand washing, depending upon size of fabric piece. If machine washed, handle gently, spin, and place on flat surface, protected by plastic and padded with bath towels. Comb pile to fluff it.

Be sure that linings, seam tape, etc. can be cleaned by the same method as the fabric in the garment.

PATTERN SELECTION

Select a simple design with few seams. Patterns without collars, set-in sleeves, and buttonholes make for easy construction.

PLACING PATTERN AND CUTTING

Place pattern pieces so that pile goes in one direction (preferably down when on the figure). Use "with nap" cutting diagram.

Avoid extra bulk by eliminating unnecessary seams, such as center-back seams of a straight jacket or coat. If pile is very thick, cut facings in one piece with garment, or bind edges with braid.

Place pattern on backing, not on pile side. On very deep pile, cut one thickness at a time. Use sharp, regular cutting shears.

MARKING

Darts, notches, and other symbols may be marked with tailor tacks or pencil and/or pins. One way to mark darts is to insert pins straight down through fabric on stitching line; then mark stitching line with soft lead pencil.

MACHINE ADJUSTMENTS

Needle Medium (Size # 14)

Stitch Long - about 10 per inch

Thread Heavy duty

Before adjusting tension and pres-

sure, test stitching on folded scrap
of fabric.

Tension Normal. It may be necessary to loosen for very deep pile.

Pressure Normal. In some cases it may be necessary to lighten pressure.

PINNING, BASTING, AND STITCHING

- Hand baste or pin baste.
- Use seam tape to reinforce points of strain.
- After stitching seams, turn to right side and use long needle or hat pin to lift pile that has been caught in seam. This will almost hide the seamline.
- To reduce bulk, grade seams where needed. Shear pile from seam allowances with scissors.
- To finish seams, machine stitch 1/8 inch from edges.
- Split darts down center and shear pile as on seam allowances.

PRESSING

Finger press. Do not steam or press with iron.

To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.